

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 38, 58-73, and 82-87 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 24-30, 32-37, 39-41, 43-57, and 74-81 are pending in this application.

Applicants are canceling claim 38 solely because the Office has concluded that this claim is drawn to a nonelected invention and accordingly withdrawn the claim from consideration.

Applicants are canceling claims 58-73 and 82-87 to place the application in better form for appeal by simplifying the issues for appeal. Specifically, claims 58-73 and 82-87 are the only claims that stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

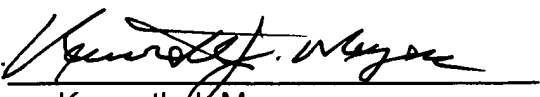
With the entry of this amendment, the only outstanding issue on appeal is the rejection of claims 24-30, 32-37, 39-41, 43-57, and 74-81 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Makino et al. in view of Mills et al., Sekizaki et al., Naddif et al., and Ozenberger et al.

Applicants courteously request the timely entry of this Amendment. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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